Equal Rights

VOL. XIV, No. 11
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
APRIL 23, 1927

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APR 22 1927
PERIODICAL DIVISION

Gwendolen Jones

Winner of the first prize in the Intercollegiate Essay Contest arranged by the Inez Milholland Committee and the Students' Council of the National Woman's Party. Miss Jones is a graduate of Wellesley College, Class of 1925. The prize of $100 was contributed by Mrs. William Kent of California.

Feminist Notes

Council Favors Women on Irish Juries

PROTEST against the proposed legislation by the Free State Government in Ireland barring women as jurors was made by the Kevin Barry Council, American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic, at a recent meeting in Washington. The council, composed of men and women, declared that "from time immemorial Irish women have shown that their judgment was equal and in many instances superior to that of men. We deplore any abridgement of their rights."

Women Study Oil Industry

SEVEN women are among the students enrolled for the evening course of study of the oil industry provided by the Tulsa (Oklahoma) Board of Education with the co-operation of the oil companies. Lectures are given on the history of the oil industry, petroleum geology, production, taxation and other matters of a legal nature, as well as refining, transportation, grades and prices, filling stations, and the future of the industry.

Feminism in the Far East

THE *Canton* (China) *Gazette* reports that a reception was given recently by the Kuomintang Women's Departments, Provincial and Municipal, and the staff and students of the Women's Training Institute to "two distinguished Japanese women visitors," whose names are not given. It is stated that "one is a press representative whose purpose is to study the conditions and progress of the Chinese Woman's Movement, and the other is a delegate from the Sino-Japanese Society who has come to study the co-educational system in Chinese schools."

Women Can Smoke on Ferryboats

THE old rule which prevented women from smoking on Southern Pacific Company ferryboats in San Francisco, California, has been abolished, so that women now have the same right as men to smoke on their way to work on the ferryboats.

Pan-Pacific Women's Conference

WOMEN of the United States, Japan, Australia, Canada, Latin America, China, Java, the Philippines, and other Pacific countries will hold a Pan-Pacific Women's Conference in Honolulu, Philippine Islands, under the auspices of the Pan-Pacific Union, in July, 1928. Women in political and administrative positions will be discussed, among other questions. Ann Y. Satterthwaite of Honolulu is secretary of the conference.

Woman Wins New Record

MRS. H. B. CARSTAIRS of England has achieved a new world's record for speed in a motor boat over a measured mile. Mrs. Carstairs already holds two international trophies, the Duke of York's trophy and the John Ward international trophy open to the world for the best speed for a 1½ litre boat over a distance of not less than 30 miles. Her present record shows a mean speed of 39.27 knots, as compared with a previous record (Mr. Hugh Trevis') of 38.175.

Women Forbidden to Wear Knickers

A WOMAN or girl who "willfully, maliciously and feloniously" wears knickers on the streets of Collingswood, New Jersey, in the future will be subject to arrest and a maximum fine of $200, or a maximum sentence of ninety days in jail, under the provisions of a sweeping new "vice and immorality" ordnance recently adopted by Collingswood's Borough Council. Men are also forbidden to wear skirts by the same ordnance. Hallowe'en night is the only time of the year in which any person may appear on the street in a dress "not customary for his or her sex."

Wins Degree by Feminist Thesis

MARGUERITE THIBERT has been granted the degree of Docteur des Lettres by the Sorbonne for her thesis on the evolution of Feminism in France during the nineteenth century.

Mme. Thibert's work, declared by scholars to be decidedly erudite, is both a historical and a philosophical document. She is particularly interested in the part which Feminism has played in the early Socialist doctrines. She goes into the problem as seen by such social theorists as Saint-Simon, Cabet, Enfantin, Auguste Comte, and other doctrinal heirs of Jean-Jacques Rousseau. She deals with the anti-social individualism of one epoch in the life of George Sand and her disciples of "sentimental liberty." Finally she comes to the struggle for civil and political rights, particularly to improve the status of the married woman as laid down by the Napoleonic code.

Mme. Thibert, who is a native of Burgundy, is a militant Feminist. She is attached to the International Labor Bureau in Geneva, where she works particularly on emigration problems.

Besides her Feminism thesis, she has published a book on "Le Role Social de l'Art d'apres les Saints-Simoniens." She has written magazine articles on "La Revolution de 1848," "La Paix par le Droit," and "Pour l'Ere Nouvelle."

Barred as Church Trustees

AT the annual meeting of the Northside Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, a motion to allow women to become members of the board of trustees was defeated.

A Royal Co-ed

PRINCESS JULIANA, prospective Queen of Holland, is going to college. It is announced that she will enter the University of Leiden next fall. It has long been customary for princes to become university students. But memory does not recall another royal girl undergraduate. Possibly the fall of some thrones and the shakiness of others may produce a flock of them. The Dutch throne appears perfectly steady. Nevertheless, Princess Juliana is reported as saying that she is going to study law, so that she will have a profession in case her country should decide that it did not need a queen.

Britain's Only Woman Governor

ALTHOUGH she was seventy years old on April 15, Princess Beatrice remains the only woman in the British Empire holding important military offices. Princess Beatrice, the youngest of Queen Victoria's children, and the only one now living, is Governor of the Isle of Wight and Governor and Captain of the historical Carisbrooke on the isle. She was appointed to the position by her mother more than twenty years ago and has held it ever since. She is the mother of the Queen of Spain.

Feminists Suffer in Turkestan

THE Associated Press correspondent at Samarkand, Turkestan, in the heart of Asia, reports that:

"Turkestan is in a ferment over sweeping Feminist reforms initiated by the Communists. The campaign to abolish the veil and liberate Moslem women from the harem is gaining great momentum. To date more than 6,000 women in the Samarkand district have forsaken the yashmak.

"The new emancipatory movement, however, has been attended by some disastrous results. Mohammendan priests, who bitterly oppose any departure from the use of the veil by women and the present cloistered life of the harem, have spread proclamations attacking the authors of the new movement as renegades, heretics and blasphemers of Koranic law. This led to numerous acts of violence by fanatical Mohammedans not only against advocates of unveiling, but against women."

New Jersey's Victory

By Leila Enders
Chairman New Jersey State Branch of the National Woman's Party

ONCE again the National Woman's Party scores! With a little more understanding and a little less resistance the New Jersey State Legislature and Governor A. Harry Moore gave to the women of their State, during the just ended legislative session, a part at least of their rightful heritage.

Two of the National Woman's Party bills, freeing the married woman from certain injustices of the common law, were passed, approved by the Governor, and are now in effect. Five other bills sponsored by a group of organizations, equalizing the dower and curtesy rights, were passed but will not be effectual until December, 1928.

The National Woman's Party bill—Senate Bill No. 14—gives the married woman the same power to contract that all men and single women have. A married woman can now become a guarantor, surety, or accommodation endorser, if she so desires. Before the passage of this bill "the dangers" of the New Jersey married woman's paper were many, and individuals and banks were naturally wary of dealings with her. If her husband were alive, and her son or daughter became involved in an automobile accident, the mother could not pledge her own property as bailable surety for the release of her child. The married woman was unable to bind herself for the debts of her own parents, children, husband, or friends. If she had property of her own before her marriage and wished to endorse the note of her niece or nephew so that they could finish their college education, she could not do so. The married woman by having her contractual power limited was also greatly handicapped in her business dealings.

Senate Bill No. 14 was endorsed by the Legislative Committee of the New Jersey Bankers' Association. It passed the Senate fairly easily, over the protest of Senator Wolber of Essex, who was the only Senator to vote against it.

In the House of Assembly Senate Bill No. 14 encountered a temporary setback. It had been referred to the Social Welfare Committee of which Assemblywomen Summers of Passaic was chairman. After holding the bill for two weeks, Mrs. Summers refused to report it. Assemblyman Ralph Chandless of Bergen, thereupon secured the signatures from three other members of the committe and forced the bill out. Two days later when the bill came up for final passage not a voice was raised against it, though ten voted in the negative and forty-one in the affirmative.

The nine women in the assembly were divided: Miss Haines of Essex and Mrs. Summers of Passaic voted "no"; Miss Jones of Essex, Mrs. Francisco of Bergen, Miss Throp of Mercer, Mrs. Stelle of Essex, Mrs. Finn, Mrs. Urbanski, and Miss Carty, all of Hudson, were recorded affirmatively.

Senate Bill No. 92 caused a spirited debate in the Senate. It originally read:

"The domicle of a married woman shall be established by the same facts and rules of law as that of any other person. This provision shall have application for the following purposes: voting, office-holding, jury service, testacy, intestacy, taxation, and relations with the government."

The bill was staunchly defended by Senator William B. Mackay, Republican, and Senator Alexander Simpson, Democrat. Senator Case objected vigorously to the phrase "and relations with the government." Whereupon Senator Mackay amended the bill by striking out that phrase. The amended bill then passed the Senate 16 to 0.

In the House of Assembly Senate Bill No. 92 passed unanimously and the Governor signed it.

The credit for the passage of these bills belongs not only to the New Jersey Branch of the Woman's Party but also to Senator William B. Mackay of Bergen County, for his powerful support, because that support was a big factor in our success. Senator Mackay is fast becoming the emancipator of New Jersey women. It was Senator Mackay who introduced the woman's suffrage joint resolution for the New Jersey ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution; and it has been Senator Mackay who since then has sponsored all Woman's Party Equal Rights bills.

Rhode Island News

By Sara M. Algeo

Chairman Rhode Island Branch of the National Woman's Party

A STRENUOUS legislative season of lobbying and hard work generally has convinced the writer even more strongly that equality for men and women before the law will come ultimately only through the passage of a Federal amendment. We adopted this year for our legislative program two measures—the Women Jurors' Bill and the Equal Rights for Men and Women Teachers' Bill. These were among the twenty-two measures introduced by the Woman's Party in 1923.

A women jurors' bill was passed but not before a voluntary clause had been inserted which was displeasing to the large body of women of the State who saw in it a move to restrict and limit the full right of citizenship which came to Rhode Island women through the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. The two organizations that worked hardest for the passage of this bill, the Women's Republican Club and the Woman's Party, expressed their dissatisfaction in decided terms and placed the blame for the insertion of this clause where it properly belonged, upon the shoulders of the inmost ring of the inner circle of the Republican organization. Another year, of course, an effort will be made to enact a bill making the rights, duties and responsibilities of men and women jurors the same.

The teachers' bill did not pass, but our herculean efforts in its behalf produced a great public demonstration and hearing and brought it out of the Judiciary Committee with the recommendation to table after a long and painful caucus upon the part of the Republican senators. Though it received the endorsement of the majority of voters, if numbers are any criterion, our so-called rotten borough system killed it 22 to 7—the seven votes coming from Providence, Pawtucket, Cranston, Johnson and other centers where the bill would be productive of the best results. In other words we had the ludicrous spectacle of a group of small town farmers trying to protect the cities from themselves.

Practically every woman in Rhode Island was on record through some organization of women all of which had endorsed this measure. No woman opposed its passage, an instance of sex solidarity that was most heartening. The opposition came from the male school officials and again the central figure of the dominant political organization Mr. Fred Peck of Barrington, who is National Committeeman from Rhode Island of the Republican Party, and Finance Commissioner. He snapped the whip with the usual precision in obedience.

Mr. Harry A. Sanderson, senator from Johnston, the La Follette of our Legislature, put up a splendid fight for the bill.

We thought we had the additional pound of weight to carry it over the top. That may come next time in pre-election year.

Equal Rights

OFFICIAL ORGAN
of the
National Woman's Party
Capitol Hill
Washington, D. C.

Published weekly
at 19 West Chase Street
Baltimore, Md.

Edith Houghton Hooker . . . Editor
Dora G. Ogle . . . Business Manager

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Mary Winsor

Entered as second-class matter at Postoffice, Baltimore, Md., under Act March 3, 1870.

Subscription, $2.00 a Year
Foreign Subscription, $2.50

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Annual Dues	$10.00
Associate Members	$1.00
Subscribing Members	$3.00
Founders	$100.00
Life Members	$1,000.00
Endowers	$5,000.00
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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To remove all forms of the subjection of women.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 11.
House Joint Resolution Number 81.]

Introduced in the Senate, December 8, 1925, by Senator Charles E. Curtis.
Introduced in the House of Representatives, December 16, 1925, by Representative D. R. Anthony.

The Victory in England

PREMIER BALDWIN'S announcement that the Government will introduce a bill at the next session of the British Parliament, giving women the vote at 21 instead of at 30, as at present, is substantial proof that when enfranchised women really desire any measure of Equal Rights they can secure it without much difficulty.

The campaign that has been waged in England to bring about the equalization of the voting age for the two sexes is in striking contrast to the campaign of but a few years since for Votes for Women. No need now for hunger strikes and prison terms for justice!

Anyone who doubts the power of the franchise or who wishes to know what women have done with the vote may well take a look at England. It is amazing to think that it required some seventy-five years of appalling effort and suffering to win the vote for about eight and a half million English women, whereas now five million English women veritably glide into the electorate. No trouble at all for anyone, including themselves.

In all of which there is a shrewd lesson for us and for our American sisters. The reason why the English women won out so readily was because they were as one in their demand for equal suffrage. No politician on earth, in England or elsewhere, would dare to defy a united group of enfranchised women. If he did he would not be deserving of the name.

This indicates the crux of the problem of Equal Rights in America. Too many women are indifferent to the issue in this country. Hence our task is to make them understand.

We know that such questions as peace, temperance, equity in sex, the social evil, infant mortality, and a thousand other intimate concerns of civilization are bound up in Equal Rights. But many other women do not know these things. They regard Equal Rights as an academic affair, totally unrelated to their daily lives. When they understand they will be with us; they will add their voices to ours and the politicians will hear. But until then? Until then we must be content to play the role of teachers. We must say the lesson over and over again until all American women know that no nation can endure half slave, half free.

Well Spoken

TIME AND TIDE, with its usual facility for getting at the pith of an argument, comments as follows on the Married Women's (Employment) Bill which is to come up for a second reading in the British House of Commons on April 29:

> The key to the position of equal occupational rights for men and women lies with the married women. While women's employment is regarded as a pleasant pastime between the form-room and the wedding breakfast, the age-long arguments of inadequate training, instability, and lack of responsibility will still be applied to women's work, no matter with how little justification. The Married Women's (Employment) Bill, presented by Sir Robert Newman, goes straight to the center of the matter, by prohibiting the dismissal of a woman employe of any public body, whether central or local, on the grounds of her marriage or intended marriage. It invalidates any contract previously made which disqualifies married women from employment. Sir Henry Slesser, Viscountess Astor, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Mr. Briant, and other members representing all parties, support the bill, and if it could be passed and the absurd position established recently by such bodies as the L. C. C. and the Middlesex Education Committee reversed, not only would the lot of all women desiring to work after marriage throughout the country be made easier, but the whole status of women's work in industries and professions would be improved.

It is because we concur so wholeheartedly in the opinion voiced by *Time and Tide* with regard to the significance of equal industrial rights for married women, that we resent so bitterly rules and regulations, such as the agreement entered into last year by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which make marriage a bar to the employment of women. As long as women are regarded as transients in industry, working only in the years between school and matrimoney, their right to equal pay, equal opportunity and all the rest of it will be disregarded. It behooves all women, married and single, whether they are working at the moment or not, to unite in militant opposition to discriminations against married women in the industrial field.

Conference and Memorial, May 14-15

THE Pre-convention Conference and the Memorial Meeting in honor of Dean Emma Gillett, who was chairman of the Lawyers Council of the Woman's Party and pioneer in opening educational opportunities to women will be held in Washington, May 14 and 15.

The conference is called to give officers and members of the Party an opportunity to discuss together plans for the national convention which will be held in Colorado Springs July 7 to 10. The conference will open Saturday morning, May 14 at 10.30 with a meeting of the National Council. At 2.30 the council and members of the party will meet together to discuss the program and arrangements for the national convention. At seven o'clock there will be a dinner for officers and members and friends of the Party in the drawing rooms of National Headquarters.

Miss Margaret Whittemore of Santa Barbara, one of the vice-presidents of the Party, will preside at the afternoon session. Mrs. Donald R. Hooker, chairman of the National Council, will preside at the dinner. This may be one of the last social gatherings in the historic building which was once the meeting place of Congress, and which is to be torn down to make way for the new home of the Supreme Court.

Distant as well as nearby States will be represented at the conference and at the Memorial meeting for Miss Gillett.

The memorial will be held in the Capitol at three o'clock in the afternoon, Sunday, May 15. Tribute will be paid to Miss Gillett by speakers representing the National Woman's Party, the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia, and the Washington College of Law, of which Miss Gillett was the Founder, and for twelve years the dean.

These organizations, also the American Legion Auxiliary and the League of Republican Women, are represented on the committee in charge of the Memorial, and this committee is inviting all other women's organizations in Washington to participate and to send two special representatives to the Memorial meeting.

The committee met at Headquarters April 15 to make plans with Marie Moore Forrest, who is in charge of the ceremonial part of the Memorial. Members of the Committee present were Mrs. Harvey Wiley, chairman; Burnita Shelton Matthews, Assistant United States District Attorneys Pearl McCall and Rebekah Greathouse, Mrs. Thacker V. Walker, Margaret Whittemore, Maud Younger, Emma Wold, Mabel Vernon and Marie Moore Forrest. Ruby Stahl, director of the choir of the First Congregational Church of Washington, will have charge of the music.

The Prize Winning Essay

Equal Economic Rights For Women

By Gwendolen Jones

Editor's Note.—Some time ago the Inez Milholland Committee co-operated with the Students' Council of the National Woman's Party in arranging an Intercollegiate Essay Contest on Equal Rights. The first prize of $100 contributed by Mrs. William Kent of California was recently awarded to Gwendolen Jones, Wellesley, 1925. We regret that lack of space prevents publication of the entire essay.

Miss Jones is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jesse Jones of New York City, and is now a second year student at the College of Physicians and Surgeons. The second prize, copies of Inez Haynes Irwin's "The Story of the Woman's Party," and Doris Stevens' "Jailed for Freedom," was won by Constance Carpenter of Newark, New Jersey, who also graduated from Wellesley in 1925. Miss Carpenter is now engaged in laboratory work in Newark.

IT is with great hesitation that I approach this well-worn but still unsettled question of the relative rights of men and women. As soon as a right is demanded the question inevitably arises, "What natural abilities and powers of the persons involved justify the granting of this right?" And therein lies the problem which makes me shiver with perplexity. From the beginning of time men have been making up delicious theories about their heaven-sent superiority, about poor woman's lesser ability. They woke up one day centuries ago and realized that some strange chain of circumstances had delivered woman into their hands; they found that state so pleasant and likewise profitable for themselves that they have been seeking a logical justification for it ever since. They have blamed woman's subordinate position in society on some psychical inferiority innate in her, on her physical disabilities, on her physiological duties to the race, on nature, on God, in fact on anything and everything except themselves. So they have built up a very interesting but highly misleading mass of literature on the subject of women, their faults, their virtues, their charms, their duties! * * *

Rather than intrude upon this already over-crowded arena I shall simply state my own convictions on the subject without trying to substantiate them either by logic or famous examples from history. * * *

Here, then, is the creed of one woman's faith in women: I believe that in the beginning all life was asexual, but that gradually for the sake of greater variety and virility in the offspring, hermaphrodites, and later still two distinct sexes were formed. These differed only in this one function of propagation. The rest of the germplasm handed down was alike in both sexes and depended on the scientific laws of inheritance. There was no arbitrary giving of the mother's abilities only to the daughter, nor as others claim, of an immutable cross-cut of inheritance from mother to son and father to daughter. Because of her one function of maternity which was so important to the race and her consequent inabilities at times, woman came to do the dull material work of the community while man branched into the more thrilling, exploiting, fighting, but hardly so necessary occupations. The force of many different circumstances all conspired to keep woman in a restricted position until the conventions and customs of the social group crystallized around her and have held her fast ever since. As Mill points out so clearly: "Laws and systems of polity always begin by recognizing the relation they find already existing between individuals. They convert what was a mere physical fact into a legal right, and give it the sanction of society." Thus the compressing restraints which probably arose from necessity have been increasingly strengthened by the force of social tradition until we can no longer distinguish between what is innate in woman and what has been taught her through centuries of social instruction. We do not know what constitutes the ultimate factors of femininity or masculinity or whether certain psychic reactions belong only to the female, some only to the male. * * *

But to turn away at last from the realms of theory and opinion where everything or nothing can be proved by clever shifting of fact, let us concentrate on the actual manifestations of inequalities in rights between the sexes and the reactions thereof. We shall touch on equal economic rights for women in their relation to the woman herself, the man, the child, and the race.

Labor is the law of the universe, and no matter how much we personally may deplore it, we cannot deny it nor escape it. Furthermore productive and creative labor on the whole is far more self developing than the dull routine of mechanical and highly repetitious labor. * * *

Women no longer do their fair share of the world's productive labor but only control the final steps of its consumption. "They toil not, neither do they spin," but still they cook and wash and clean. As Charlotte Perkins Gilman expresses it, "We have assumed that the nutritive and excretive processes of the family are feminine functions, and we have also assumed that these processes must go on in the

home which is the external expression of the family." In other words the menial domestic duties are now considered part of women's sex functions. Ruskin states baldly that "simply manual occupations are degrading." If they are degrading for a few workmen what can they be for a whole sex thus harshly consigned to them from birth? Our first point then against the inequality of women in economic endeavor, the relentless consigning of them to menial household tasks, is the deadly effect of monotonous tasks on their souls. Not only are these duties so never ending and repetitious but they are also largely non-creative. Woman occasionally may devise some fantastic new combinations of food, delicious perhaps, but modeled on someone else's design. What can she know of the great creative urges, locked up as she is within the four walls of her house with her mind constantly on a litter of material things, and those not of the loveliest genera either? Then the inevitable answer: that she has the noblest of all creations to work with, the child! Sweet platitude! Yes, the child! And what does she do with it? Sends it to school as soon as possible, sends it to music teachers, dancing teachers, gymnasium teachers, or just out into the street to play. When it asks questions or longs for more intimate companionship, she is too busy. Too busy! Not with the affairs of the world, nor the nation, not with the affairs of art or literature, no, too busy with dishes and beds and dishes all over again. Creation indeed! There is no creative work in the training and culture the child of the ordinary middle class family receives from its mother. Poor woman! she too was raised in one of these stifling homes and so has no other outlook than this morbidly material one.

* * *

AS long as each woman is economically dependent on some one man he stands as the gateway between her and the rest of the world. It is through him that her necessities, her pleasures, her opinions, her opportunities must come. If he is cruel and parsimonious her lot is sad indeed. If he is able and generous, it may be somewhat lightened. But even then the very essence of dependency is irksome and degenerating. Young boys are always eager to earn their own money; they feel that only then have they attained their manhood. We encourage them in this, feeling proud of their initiative and ability, while on the other hand we forbid that to a whole sex with one lordly gesture. So long as woman is well provided for what difference does it make if she does not earn it herself? Is it not an advantage to be allowed leisure for the pursuit of higher cultural things, beauty, art, music? It makes a thousand differences! In the first place she may not have the leisure to use as she pleases. If she is man's plaything he will resent her seriously following an artist's career; she is there to please him, to give him menial service, or sex service, or to act as a blatant consumer-by-proxy of his wealth. No true culture can come to one in a state of servility to sex. But to return to our question of woman's dependency. That unenviable state is further complicated by the fact that in many homes, a little above the level of the one in which the wife must still do the manual tasks of the household, the wife has now ceased to do *anything!* As in that poorer home the actual necessities of life are produced elsewhere, the children are sent away or given over to nurses, even the lowly housework has been delegated to servants. This leaves woman with nought but her sex function, poor one-sided creature! and finally she even refuses to bear children! We find her then a full-fledged parasite, lodged in the bosom of mankind. * * *

THE parasite is a loathsome creature, stagnant, inert, lacking incentive for any action save only that stealthy grasping of what is not hers. She is selfish and superficial. If she is herself so painfully degenerate, her influence upon man, and upon the whole race is also dangerous. On man she puts too great a strain economically; nor does she improve his self control, nor inspire his higher instincts; rather sucking and hugging at his purse strings she urges him on to more and more ruthless money-getting, to self gratification, to ostentation and display. Thus we see man, ever working at higher and higher speed for valueless things, while woman grows weaker and lazier, asking, asking, asking! Then, for the sake of her soul and man's too heavily burdened back, throw open the doors of labor to her!

The economic dependence of women is harmful to them on many scores. It causes them to do monotonous, dull and uncreative work, it shuts them out from the broadening contacts of the outside world, in some cases it makes them degenerate into parasites physically and morally ruinous to the whole social group. On behalf of the women alone this dragging dependency should be wiped out. But the conservatives object (their vociferousness is so unfortunate!). "If women are happy as dependents and they contribute to the happiness and progress of their husbands and children let us not disturb everything just because of a few ridiculous theories." Unfortunately many women are happy in their slavery or in their parasitism. They have been so trained to it for centuries that they would stumble and fall if suddenly made to support themselves. The pitiful helplessness of some widows is an admirable case in point. But as Charlotte Perkins Gilman says, merely to like and enjoy a thing is no sure proof of its rightness. In fact it only shows how deeply scarred these poor creatures are by society's treacherous teachings. * * * We have already hinted at the effect of female parasitism on the man; on how it makes the burden of his toil unjustly great, on how it urges him on to all the evils of modern ruthless industrial competition; instead of furnishing him a noble purpose for which to work. It forces upon him a mean and selfish end. It makes him a slave to material things. It cramps his mind and soul as surely as the woman's. She has no conception of the effort entailed in economic endeavor; her's is purely the consumer's point of view, and she urges him on to madness. To quote from Mrs. Gilman:

"We have built into the constitution of the human race the habit and desire of taking, as divorced from its natural precursor and concomitant of making. We have made for ourselves this endless array of horse leech's daughters, crying, 'Give! Give!' To consume food, to consume clothes, to consume houses and furniture and decorations and ornaments and amusements—to take and take forever—this is the enforced condition of the mothers of the race. What wonder that their sons go into business 'for what there is in it.' What wonder that the world is full of the desire to get as much as possible and to give as little as possible!"

Then, again, the woman may not have degenerated into a complete parasite. She may still perform her household duties, her litle helpful tasks. Is she not a true helpmate? Does she not make her husband more comfortable, more able to work well, to better fulfill his duties to the community? Perhaps in a minor degree she does do these things, yet is not that very bad for the man? To have one human being always there to cater to his every need, his slightest whim? He is apt to develop an arrogant and thoughtless attitude; the instincts of the master, the slave owner, are not ennobling. Also if we keep women undeveloped and primitive, what hope of companionship between men and women can there be? The wife is surrounded by her little household ways, the husband goes on and fights in the economic wars, grows hardy and keen —returns to his soft and inefficient wife. What joy in such a home coming? * * *

LASTLY, we have the great problem of children. Surely there, at least, the women make some contribution. If they are neither menial drudges nor lazy parasites, they do, no one can deny that, but are they better mothers because of their economic dependence? Have their centuries of cooking and cleaning and child-tending made them more expert and efficient at motherhood? If it has, one would expect to find the babies increasingly stronger and healthier, more and more intelligent. One would expect to find the toll of idiocy, epilepsy and infant death rate decrease enormously. But are these

things true? "As a sex specialized to reproduction, giving up all personal activity, all honest independence, all useful and progressive economic service for her glorious consecration to the uses of maternity, the human female has little to show in the way of results which can justify her position. Neither the enormous percentage of children lost by death, nor the low average health of those who survive, neither physical nor mental progress, give any proof of race advantage from the maternal sacrifice."

The economic dependence of women is an unfortunate relic of many unhappy days. It stands condemned on the score of the women themselves, their husbands and other male relatives and their children. In fact, it is evidently inimical to the advancement of the whole race. * * *

Briefly, we believe that all women, married or single, should have the right to enter any field of economic pursuit on exactly the same terms as men. They should not be arbitrarily debarred from any industry by law, not discriminated against in any profession. They should be allowed to have the duties as well as the privileges of men. True feminists ask for no privileges, no concessions to be given *as women*. They want no shorter hours, no more comfortable chairs, no higher pay. They only ask for equality of opportunity—they do not even promise to excel men or even to equal them in ability, but they claim, nay, demand the right to try, and if they fail in the race, if they fail in the competition they will at least have proved their inability and not have had it passively assumed for ages. We do not know what wealth of talent and genius lies buried in woman's breast. Give it a chance! We *do* know the deadly shrivelling process to which her soul has been subjected. Free it! As Shaw says, "Unless a woman repudiates her womanliness, her duty to her husband, to her children, to society, to the law, to everyone but herself, she cannot emancipate herself." That is, as society is now organized the effort of individual expression is so great that it necessitates a ruthless throwing aside of other demands.

LET us give woman an equal chance in the work of economics. Then when she has found herself at last, she can combine genesis with individuation, the two will enrich and complement each other. Now when individuation is in inverse ration to genesis, she must devote herself entirely to the one or the other, not to both. We look forward to a day when the two may proceed side by side. This may necessitate some substitute for the home, some communal baby farm, some central kitchens where experts hold sway. We are not sure, but neither does the prospect terrify us. Let us dare all things for the sake of liberty!

As long as women are "protected" more than men in industry, and are paid less than men for the same work they cannot really compete fairly—they cannot really test their abilities. They are still crippled by this stubborn convention that after all women must not work; that they only work for "pin money" or as a temporary thing. It is this aspect of woman's problem in industry which makes her such a weak link; which makes her underbid man and pull down the whole standard of work. If the existing conditions of labor in the factories are wrong for the woman they are no less wrong for the man and protection should be universal, not one-sided. The greatest danger from the old ideas of the necessity of woman's dependence lies in its insidiousness, its innate treachery. We cannot tell when it is standing behind us putting words into our speeches, coloring and artfully shading our pictures. If we are to escape from it our first reaction must of necessity be violent, too violent. It is rather in that spirit of too-tempestuous revolt that I offer this.

We must strive for a fullness of individuality beyond mere sex, not just a renunciation of it, but a transformation, and an everlasting unity. "It is not a levelling, constraining rule of a definite manner of existence, but a living form of freedom for the individuality which springs eternally from the breast of nature, an inexhaustible source of new possibilities of evolution and new forms of being."

Press Comment

Jury Service By Option

Christian Science Monitor.

EVER since the adoption of the constitutional amendment which extends to the women of the United States equal privileges with men in the exercise of the franchise, interesting discussions have been carried on as to the civic duty of women in respect to jury service. In some of the States laws have been enacted imposing upon the newly enfranchised voters the responsibility of such service, making them subject to call either as grand or petit jurors, allowing to them only such exemptions as are accorded generally. It has been repeatedly held by the courts that the enfranchising amendment to the Federal Constitution did not automatically remove existing statutory provisions defining and prescribing, somewhat specifically, the liability of males of voting age to such service.

Thus it has been found necessary in many of the States, in order to qualify women for jury duty, to amend the laws in that particular. Not all the States have taken such action. But in Rhode Island, at the present session of the Legislature, an act has been signed by the Governor providing for the voluntary service of women as jurors, reserving to them, however, the privilege of declining to sit whenever they so choose, and for whatever reason they may care to advance. The act was opposed by a representative of the National Woman's Party. The Women's Republican Club of Rhode Island also was on record as unanimously opposing the measure.

A representative of the Women's Republican Club, while expressing the opinion that most of the women voters of her State do not seek the privilege of serving as jurors, does insist that if they are to be called upon to perform such service they should be governed by the same rules that now apply generally. They ask no special exemptions or privileges. The spokesman in behalf of the National Woman's Party denounces the bill as a piece of class legislation which women in other States have refused to accept. She declares that the voters whom she represents have no desire to shirk or slight their obligations as citizens. This, of course, is in line with the well-known platform of the organization. Its members have conducted an aggressive campaign which has for its object the repeal of all preferential legislation in favor of women, in industry as well as in respect to domestic and property rights. Their attitude toward such legislation as that now proposed has long been known.

It is to the credit of those who are making this emphatic protest that they are able to see in this effort to qualify them for jury service without imposing upon them the civic duty incident to such service an unwise and ill-advised experiment. No doubt it will be generally agreed that those jurors who would be most willing to evade service are those most sought to fill the panels in the trial of most important cases. This being the case, surely the standard of excellence or desirability would not be raised if it were possible for all who did not wish to serve to be excused. More and more is the realization being impressed that the laws against crime will not be adequately enforced until the jury boxes are filled by men and women who acknowledge their own responsibility to society and to the State, and who are willing, even though they are obliged to devote valuable time to this duty, to make whatever sacrifice is necessary.

News from the Field

Lula Lee Eckman

BY the recent death of Lula Lee Eckman, the National Woman's Party loses a loyal active member, unfailing and regular in her support Miss Eckman was the legal expert of the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor, and the collector of material for many of its important publications, including a pamphlet on Child Welfare (Mothers' Pension) Laws. She was a member of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia and of the American Bar Association. In all things she was a Feminist.

The Week at Headquarters

MRS. JOHN CURRAN of Santa Barbara, a member of the National Woman's Party, and her friend, Miss Joan Bigwither of England, have been making National Headquarters their headquarters for several weeks while seeing Washington and motoring in neighboring States.

The dining-room at Headquarters, the enterprise of Lucy Washington, has a growing patronage. The tables are gay with tulips and jonquils from the Woman's Party garden.

Vice-President Margaret Whittemore has arrived from Santa Barbara, by way of Detroit, and is established in the Delaware Room. She is engaged in plans and preparations for the coming Conference and Gillett Memorial meeting, which will take place May 14-15.

Senator Kearney to Retire

STATE SENATOR BELLE KEARNEY of Mississippi has announced her refusal to be re-elected to the Mississippi Senate from Madison County. She will give all her time to lecturing. Senator Kearney was a recent guest at National Headquarters of the National Woman's Party.

Her withdrawal from the race, says the *Daily Clarion-Ledger* of Jackson, Mississippi, "deprives Mississippi of one of her ablest officials, for Senator Kearney is a brilliant woman and a natural leader."

Judges and Law-Makers for N. W. P. Bill

AS part of the Michigan campaign for Equal Rights, the members of both judiciary committees of the Legislature, with their wives and a number of their friends, were recently entertained at a luncheon arranged by the Lansing Branch and a committee representing the Michigan State Branch of the National Woman's Party.

The measure particularly discussed at the luncheon was a bill which defines prostitution as the act of both the man and the woman. It has the written endorsement of practically all the judges in Detroit, of welfare workers, of the Nurses' Association and the Business and Professional Women's Club. It was approved by practically all the legislators and others present at the luncheon, and a favorable report in both houses is expected.

Among the members of the Woman's Party present were Mrs. Laura Cramer, National Organization Chairman; Mrs. William H. McGraw, Michigan State Chairman; Mrs. Besse Moton Garner, Chairman of the Detroit Branch; Miss Helen McDonald, and Mrs. Charles Aldinger, who is the executive secretary of the Michigan Legislative Committee, which represents four women's organizations, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the Nurses' Association, the Business and Professional Women's Club, and the National Woman's Party. Mrs. Aldinger looks after the interests of their legislative program at Lansing.

The Michigan Branch of the Woman's Party is supporting a Child Welfare Bill as an Equal Rights measure It is legislation of the class generally known heretofore as "mothers' pension laws." The Michigan bill, however, provides an allowance for the child or children, to be paid to mother, father or other guardian.

Gail Laughlin Heads Woman's Club

MISS GAIL LAUGHLIN, member of the Maine House of Representatives and vice-chairman of the National Council of the Woman's Party, has been elected president of the Women's Literary Union of Portland, Maine, after serving as its first vice-president for the past two years.

Men's Interests vs. Women's Rights

NONE of the proposed bills to amend the California community property laws are satisfactory to the Woman's Party. They have all grown out of the income tax situation, and aim to protect the economic interests of the husband, not to give husbands and wives Equal Rights in community property.

Kansas City Branch Entertained

THE National Woman's Party was entertained with a bridge party Wednesday, April 6, by Mrs. Frederick Ellsworth Sutton and Mrs. George De Koven Marshall at the home of Mrs. Marshall.

Mrs. Sutton and Mrs. Marshall gave this party complimentary to the members of the Kansas City Branch; $55 was realized from the tables and $5 from a hand-painted clock donated by the hostesses, clearing a total of $60 for the club.

Mrs. Sutton and Mrs. Marshall interested their personal friends in this party, thus presenting the work of the club to a large number of outside women.

Minnesota Founder Visits Headquarters

MRS. GEORGE M. KENYON of St. Paul, a Founder of the National Woman's Party, has arrived in Washington and visited Headquarters on April 8.

Two Million Dollar Fund

Treasurer's Report

JOY WEBSTER, *Treasurer*

NETTIE TRAIL: *C. P. A., Auditor.*

RECEIPTS collected by National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to March 31, 1927, $1,399,135.86.

Contributions, membership and other receipts, March 31 to April 9, 1927:

Miss Georgia O'Keeffe, N. Y.	$25.00
Mrs. Louise Berendsohn, N. Y.	1.00
Per New York City Committee: (N. Y. City Committee retaining one-half)	
Mrs. Brinckerhoff Jackson	.50
Miss Vyvyan Donner, N. Y.	12.21
Miss Esther McLaughlin, N. Y.	1.00
Mrs. M. McCurrach, N. Y.	50.00
Per New Jersey Branch: (New Jersey Branch retaining one-half)	
Mrs. E. Blanche Saunders	.50
Mrs. K. E. Smith, Ohio	10.00
Miss Lavinia Dock, Pa.	5.00
Miss Aline E. Solomons, D. C.	12.50
St. Paul (Minn.) Committee	25.00
Miss Eva Lasarow, N. Y.	1.00
Per District of Columbia Committee: (D. C. Committee retaining one-half)	
Miss Margaret Blaine	.50
Miss Hallie Brown	.50
Mrs. Donald Conn	.50
Miss Elizabeth M. Craig	.50
Miss M. L. Dee	.50
Mrs. Mary F. Downs	.50
Miss Mary E. Doyle	.50
Miss Pauline Hammett	.50
Mrs. S. T. Hughes	.50
Miss Sarah McCrea	.50
Miss Laura McNaught	.50
Mrs. E. G. Marsh	.50
Miss Mary G. Marshall	.50
Miss Caroline Mytinger	.50
Miss Lillian Oliver	.50
Mrs. Theresa Russell	.50
Miss Mayam E. Winter	.50
Miss Eva Yost	.50
Rent of rooms at Headquarters	547.50
Sale of "Jailed for Freedom"	2.00
Sale of literature	3.86
EQUAL RIGHTS subscription (forwarded to EQUAL RIGHTS office)	2.00
Payment for electricity	1.00
Total Receipts of National Headquarters, March 31 to April 9, 1927	$709.07
Per Equal Rights Committee: Katherine G. Halligan, Pa.	10.00
Total Receipts, March 31 to April 9, 1927	$719.07
Total Receipts, December 7, 1912, to April 9, 1927	$1,399,854.93

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